

Bureau agrees with county for moving tailings

By SONNI SCHWINN
Heber City Correspondent

HEBER CITY — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has agreed to most of Wasatch County's requirements in moving the Olsen-Niehart tailings from the Jordanelle Reservoir basin to a landfill west of the reservoir basin, next to the planned Mayflower Resort.

Most important to the county, Kirk Carpenter, chief of the bureau's Provo office, agreed to provide an engineer to represent the agency on the newly-formed Jordanelle Basin Sewer Advisory Committee. The Heber Valley Sewer District Board, State Division of Parks and Recreation, and Jordanelle developers will also be represented on the committee, which will oversee and coordinate the installa-

tion of sewer systems in the Jordanelle area, particularly those that will tie into the Heber Valley sewage treatment plant.

Commissioner Pete Coleman objected to government agencies, especially the bureau, sending representatives that are not qualified to discuss technical questions and don't have the authority to make technical decisions for their organizations. He insisted that the bureau assign an engineer to sit on the committee.

In a March 12 letter to the county, the bureau agreed to the county's requirement to landscape the new landfill and the area around it, after the project is completed, and to restore whatever vegetation is destroyed by any other excavation for the move. The

bureau also agreed to include the county when the landscaping is being planned.

The bureau further agreed to provide for pedestrian traffic around the landfill, which would otherwise conflict with trail systems for the new State Park and the Mayflower development. It will also install interpretive signs explaining what the tailings are and telling a little about the history of mining in the area.

However, the bureau refuses to move the clean dirt it will move from the landfill, to make room for the tailings, to build up a road in front of the Park City Mine. According to Bob Mathis, county planner, the bureau considers that a direct subsidy to the Mayflower Resort.

But he said, "If these projects are going to develop, they have to start on at least as even a keel as they were before the dam project was started."

He accused the bureau of refusing to do anything that might add to the value of private property because then it would be more expensive to condemn. However, Carpenter denied the charge, saying that any value that may be added by the project is not considered in establishing the price that will be paid for it when it is condemned.

At this point, the bureau plans to move the material to the area on the shores of the reservoir where a boat ramp is planned, to build up a 600-by-700-foot platform that will be

three feet above the water.

Bill White, bureau engineer, added that the bureau cannot put the material on other people's ground. But Mathis said he hadn't asked them to put it on anybody else's ground.

He told the commission the main problem is there is no plan for managing the fill and the Division of Parks and Recreation can't put a plan together before the specifications for the contract are issued, April 12. The division says it is ill-advised to put the material there before there is a plan, he said.

"The State Park doesn't know how to use the material. They don't want to be put into a position where they don't have enough money left to do what they intend to do when

the recreation plan is developed," he explained.

The county also wants a permanent drainage system installed at the new landfill site, rather than the temporary system planned by the bureau. Mathis expressed concern that the tailings could "get away" and contaminate other material on the Mayflower property.

The county would prefer that the tailings be moved outside of the county, and particularly objects to the new landfill site because it is not in a zone that allows landfills. But the bureau dismissed the issue, arguing that the zone the tailings are in now does not allow a landfill and the material will simply be moved from one location to another within the same zone.

Bureau of Reclamation Awards \$9 Million Contract For Olson/Neihart Mine Tailings Relocation

8-1-90

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced recently the award of a \$9,076,628 Bureau of Reclamation contract to remove the mine tailings located within the future Jordanelle Reservoir basin, part of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project.

The contract calls for the tailings to be placed into a secure landfill for permanent disposition. In addition, a permanent landfill camp will be constructed among with drainage and erosion control grading, landscaping, access road, and fencing. Qualtec, Inc., of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, received the contract,

with completion set for November, 1991.

Jordanelle Dam is presently under construction. Located on the Provo River about 6 miles north of Heber City, the project will provide municipal and industrial water to the Heber and Salt Lake Valleys. Inundation of the mine tailings by Jordanelle Reservoir potentially threatens the future quality of the municipal and industrial water, and consequently Reclamation determined that the relocation of the tailings, which contain heavy metals, is essential.

Neihart, Russell E.
c/o U S A Bureau of Reclamation
0130208 1/2 Int in Fol: W1/2NW1/4 & SE1/4 NW1/4 &
SW1/4 Sec 29, T2S, R5E, SLM.
Total Area: 200.00 Acres
(Less Card DWC-0148-2, 5.62 acres)

Olson, Neihart Inc.
c/o U S A Bureau of Reclamation
0130216 Beg N 517.96 Ft fr SW Cor Sec 29, T2S,
R5E, SLM; N 952.04 Ft; E 280 Ft; S 800
Ft; S61;26'55" W 318.11 Ft to Beg.
Area: 5.62 acres

Olson, Neihart Inc.
c/o U S A Bureau of Reclamation
0130232 Beg N 517.96 Ft fr SE Cor Sec 30, T2S,
R5E, SLM; S61;26'55" W 456.03 Ft; W 920
Ft; N 1020 Ft; E 1000 Ft; N 150 Ft
320 Ft; S 952.04 Ft to Beg. *Tax/990*